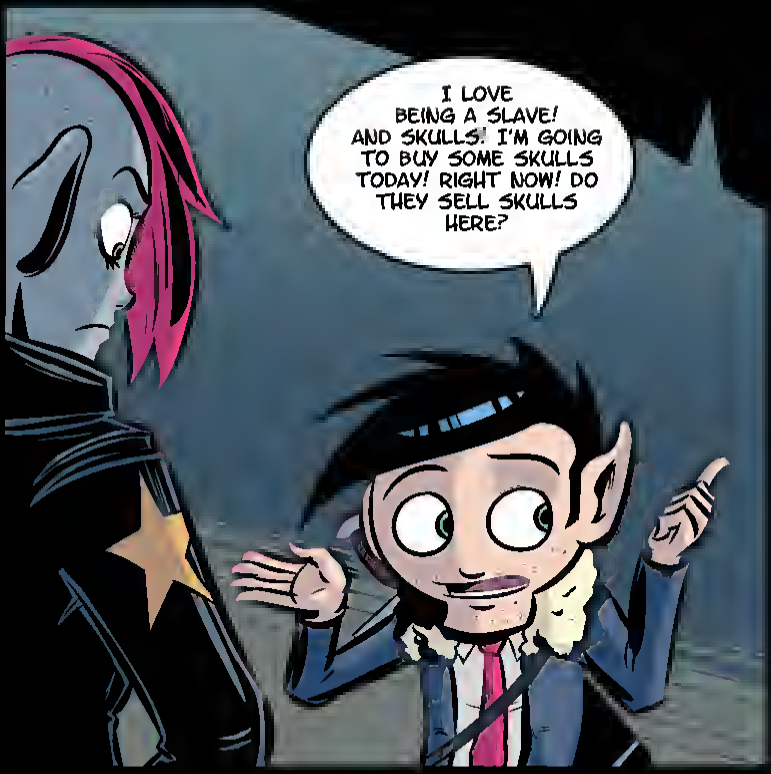
Newman
BY JOSH ULRICH

SO I GUESS WE'RE CULT HUNTERS NOW... I WONDER IF THAT COMES WITH A PAY RAISE.
WHY DID IT HAVE TO BE THE UNDERDARK!?
WHAT??

THAT'S ALL WE NEED IS ONE MORE REASON FOR PEOPLE TO BE FREAKED OUT BY THE DROW!
SURE WE LIVE UNDERGROUND. WE PUT SKULLS ON A LOT OF THINGS, AND WE MAKE OUR MEN OUR SLAVES. THAT MAKES US EVIL? I NEVER HEARD ANY MEN COMPLAINING! THEY'RE FREE TO GO IF THEY WANT!
FOR SURE

AND WHAT'S SO BAD ABOUT SKULLS?
SKULLS ARE TOTALLY METAL!
TOTALLY.

I MEAN WE'VE BEEN DATING FOR OVER A YEAR NOW. YOU DON'T THINK THE DROW ARE EVIL DO YOU?
WHAT? NO! OF COURSE NOT!


I LOVE BEING A SLAVE! AND SKULLS! I'M GOING TO BUY SOME SKULLS TODAY! RIGHT NOW! DO THEY SELL SKULLS HERE?

SIGH
GWEN, ARE YOU OKAY? I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU THIS WORKED UP BEFORE.

I'M FINE. I'VE JUST GOT A LOT ON MY MIND LATELY, AND THIS WHOLE THING JUST... DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. I'M OK
ALRIGHT...
ARE YOU SURE YOU--
NEVERMIND

YOU THINK YOUR MOM WILL HAVE INFORMATION ON THE CULT?
HER SPY RING RUNS PRETTY DEEP. IF SOMETHING IS GOING ON DOWN HERE, SHE'LL KNOW ABOUT IT

HEY MOM.
HER MAJESTY, QUEEN LILLIAN!
YOUR MAJESTY

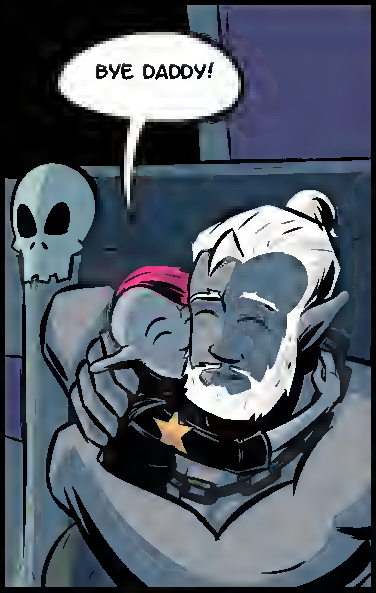
AH. GWEN. MY YOUNGEST DAUGHTER. I ASSUME YOU'VE DECIDED TO WISE UP AND MOVE BACK HOME. NOW THAT THE APOCALYPSE IS UPON THE SURFACE
NO. WE'RE ACTUALLY HERE TO ASK FOR YOUR HELP ON THAT.

YOU KNOW WE DON'T DABBLE IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE SUN LOVERS
WE DON'T NEED SOLDIERS. JUST INFORMATION
YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THE CULT
TOLD YA.

I CAN HAVE MY GENERAL SHOW YOU WHERE THEY HOLD UP, BUT BEYOND THAT I CAN'T BE OF MUCH HELP. THEY LIVE BEYOND OUR TERRITORY AND SINCE THEY HAVEN'T MADE A MOVE TOWARDS US, WE MIND OUR OWN BUSINESS.

THAT WOULD BE GREAT, THANKS MOM.
ANYTHING FOR MY LITTLE GIRL

AND GWEN, DO REMEMBER MY OFFER.
I WILL.


BYE DADDY!

THANKS AGAIN.

YOU SEE? WHAT DID I TELL YA? PIECE OF CAKE.
WHEN YOU'RE RIGHT, YOU'RE--

SLAM!

NEWMAN?

MOM! YOU OPEN THIS DOOR RIGHT NOW!

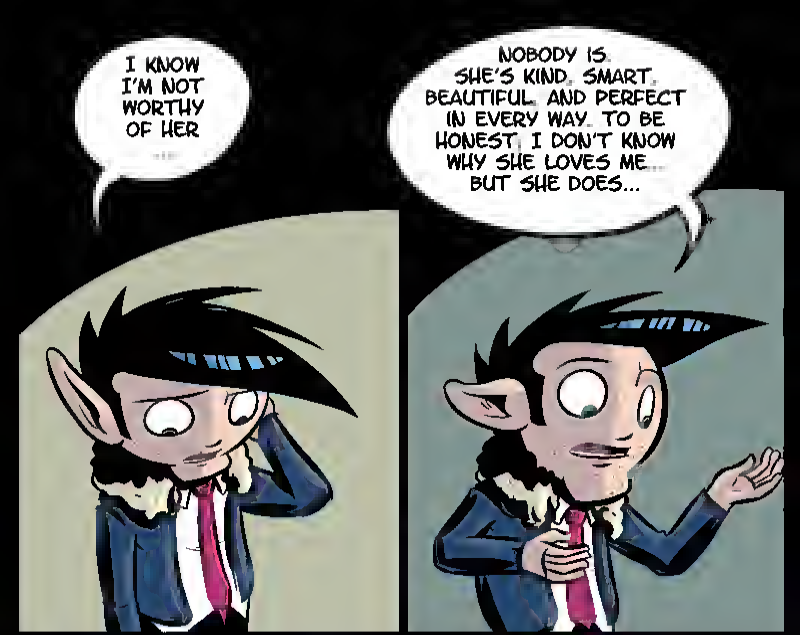
HELLO, NEWMAN.
LET'S CHAT.

UM...
IS THERE SOMETHING I CAN DO FOR YOU, YOUR MAJESTY?
I UNDERSTAND YOU WISH TO PROPOSE TO MY DAUGHTER.

H-HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT!?
DIDN'T GWEN TELL YOU? MY SPY RING RUNS DEEP.
YOU'RE SPYING ON ME?
I HAVE PEOPLE WATCHING YOU EVERY SECOND OF THE DAY.
I HAVE EVERY DOCUMENTED PIECE OF YOUR HISTORY FROM BIRTH
I KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU SLAVE.

EVERY SECOND?
IT IS NOT CUSTOMARY FOR A MALE TO PROPOSE TO A WOMAN, ESPECIALLY NOT ROYALTY

WHAT MAKES YOU, THE DIRT BENEATH MY DAUGHTER'S FEET, THINK YOU'RE WORTHY TO FLY IN THE FACE OF TEN THOUSAND YEARS OF TRADITION AND PROPOSE TO A WOMAN WHO'S LOVE YOU DON'T EVEN DESERVE?


I KNOW I'M NOT WORTHY OF HER
NOBODY IS. SHE'S KIND, SMART, BEAUTIFUL, AND PERFECT IN EVERY WAY. TO BE HONEST, I DON'T KNOW WHY SHE LOVES ME... BUT SHE DOES...

I'M AFRAID TO.
AND BECAUSE ...
AND I DON'T MEAN TO GO AGAINST YOUR TRADITIONS I UNDERSTAND IF YOU WONT ALLOW ME TO PROPOSE. BUT... I WANT TO ASK HER BECAUSE... I LOVE HER, AND BECAUSE SHE DESERVES TO BE ASKED.

IF GWEN WANTS TO LET YOU KISS THE GROUND SHE WALKS ON, IT'S HER BUSINESS
BUT KNOW THIS, SLAVE. IF MY DAUGHTER DECIDES TO KEEP YOU, YOU ARE HERS FOREVER. YOU DO NOT GET TO WALK AWAY. YOUR LIFE IS NO LONGER YOUR OWN.
AND IF I SO MUCH AS CATCH A WHIFF THAT YOUR LOYALTY TO HER IS IN QUESTION, I WILL DESTROY YOU SO THOROUGHLY THAT YOUR OWN PARENTS WONT REMEMBER YOUR NAME.

I WOULD EXPECT NO LESS, YOUR MAJESTY.

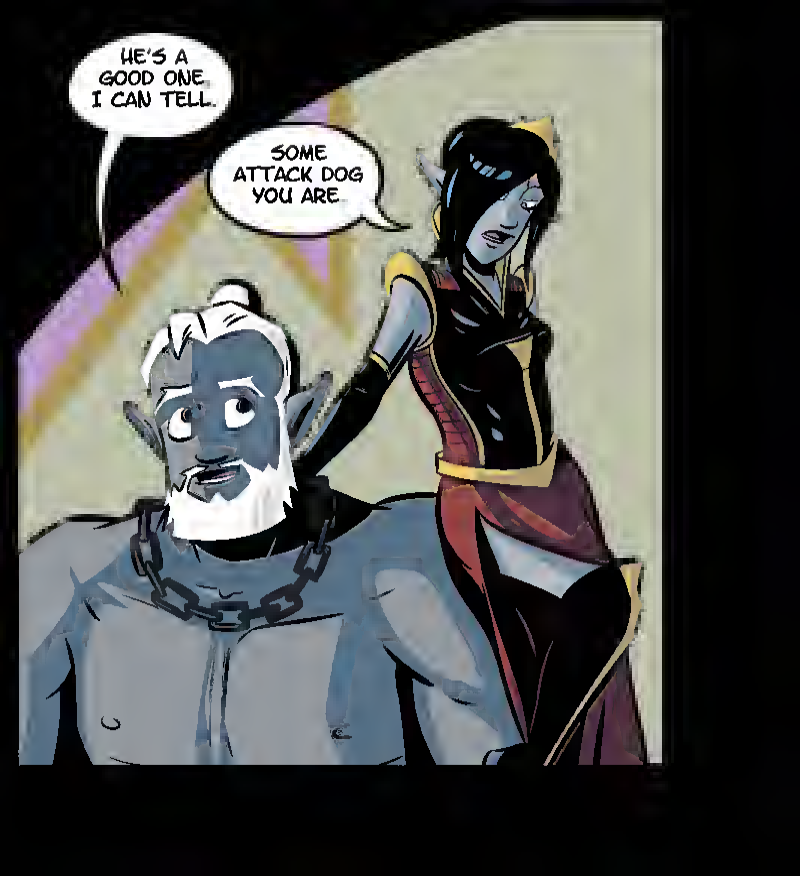
SMASH!

MOM! STOP TERRORIZING MY BOYFRIEND!
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT. HE DOESN'T HAVE A SCRATCH ON HIM

EMOTIONAL TORTURE IS JUST AS BAD AS PHYSICAL!
DISAGREE.

COME ON, NEWMAN! WE'RE LEAVING!
UMMM...

I LIKE HIM.
...


HE'S A GOOD ONE. I CAN TELL.
SOME ATTACK DOG YOU ARE.

AW, COME ON. WE BOTH KNOW YOU'RE ONLY THAT MEAN TO THE ONES YOU LIKE.
TIME WILL TELL JUST HOW WORTHY HE IS.

UNTIL THEN.

WE'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE.

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